

### CLEAN VERSION OF ABSTRACT

The Abstract has been amended as follows:

For encoding a source sequence of symbols (u) as an encoded sequence, the source sequence (u) is divided into  $p_1$  first sub-sequences ( $U_i$ ),  $p_1$  being a positive integer, and each of the first sub-sequences ( $U_i$ ) is encoded in a first circular convolutional encoding method. The source sequence (u) is interleaved into an interleaved sequence ( $u^*$ ), and the interleaved sequence ( $u^*$ ) is divided into  $p_2$  second sub-sequences ( $U'_i$ ),  $p_2$  being a positive integer. Each of the second sub-sequences ( $U'_i$ ) is encoded in a second circular convolutional encoding method. At least one of the integers  $p_1$  and  $p_2$  is strictly greater than 1 and at least one of the first sub-sequences ( $U_i$ ) is not interleaved into any of the second sub-sequences ( $U'_j$ ).

(It is noted that the above underlining of the following symbols is original, and is meant to be permanent: u,  $U_i$ ,  $u^*$ ,  $U'_i$ ,  $U'_j$ )